

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00818 041358Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 818

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: YAMANI'S ALLEGATION OF U.S. "SABOTAGE"
OF CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR GENE BIRD IS DELIVERING THE
FOLLOWING LETTER THIS AFTERNOON TO ZAKI YAMANI:

"DEAR ZAKI:

"I PASSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER YOUR REMARKS
ON THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER
INTO A CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE - IN FACT, ITS
APPARENT SABOTAGE OF A COOPERATIVE APPROACH. I
WAS ASKED TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE SECRETARY'S
STATEMENTS ON 'COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION' HE
MADE A YEAR AGO; HIS STATEMENTS AT MARTINIQUE AND
HIS INTERVIEW WITH BILL MOYERS ON FEBRUARY 3. GENE
BIRD IS BRINGING COPIES OF ALL THESE DOCUMENTS. THERE
HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER.

"THE SECRETARY ALSO ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT
WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PREPARATORY DISCUS-
SIONS WITH OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS INTENDED TO ASSURE
MAXIMUM CHANCES OF A CONSTRUCTIVE, SUCCESSFUL CON-
FERENCE.

"FINALLY, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO ASK YOU FOR FURTHER
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CLARIFICATION OF YOUR REMARKS, PARTICULARLY IF THERE

IS ANYTHING SPECIFIC THAT MAY BE BOTHERING YOU.

"AS THERE EVIDENTLY HAS BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING, I AM PLEASED WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO GET THINGS CLARIFIED, AND WILL PASS TO WASHINGTON ANY COMMENTS OR FURTHER QUESTIONS YOU HAVE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY WILL BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

"IF YOU'D LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH ME PERSONALLY, I'LL TAKE THE NEXT PLANE TO RIYADH."

2. I DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ANY REFERENCE TO HIS COMMENTS NOT "BEING IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF RELATIONS WITH US." I THINK THE SPIRIT OF OUR RELATIONS IS BASED ON A FRANK EXPRESSION OF VIEWS. AS FAR AS I KNOW, YAMANI HAS NOT RPT NOT EXPRESSED THESE OPINIONS TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. WHAT I WOULD FIND OFFENSIVE, AND IN FACT COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP, WOULD BE FOR HIM NOT RPT NOT TO MAKE SUCH REMARKS TO ME, TO CONCEAL HIS BELIEFS ON SUCH MATTERS FROM ME AND REVEAL THEM TO OTHERS. HIS FRANKNESS ENABLES US TO TRY TO GET MISCONCEPTIONS CORRECTED AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR IT.

3. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH YAMANI DURING HIS FEB 15 VISIT TO RIYADH. SHALL WE TRY TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT?
AKINS

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